GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:278
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2003
THEFT OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITIONS
RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the existing safety provisions for all the ordnance depots in the country;

(b) whether the existing security is adequate to check theft, pilferage and sale of the weapons and ammunitions to the anti-social elements and terrorists;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 278 FOR 7.8.2003

Adequate safety provisions exists in all Ordnance/Ammunition Depots in the country to check theft and pilferage of weapons and ammunitions as mentioned below:

(i) Perimeter walls, inner and outer fence exists in all Ordnance Depots.

(ii) Number of entry and exit gates are kept minimum.

(iii) Flood lights have been installed and watch towers have been erected for tightening security.

(iv) Special security instructions and Standing Operating Procedure are formulated and implemented for safety of arms and ammunition in Ordnance Depots.

(v) Frequent checks/surprise checks are carried out in each depot. Surprise checks are also carried out by formation Headquarters during periodic inspections.

(vi) Periodic stock taking is carried out in each depot.

(vii) Strict accounting procedures are followed and monitored in all depots.

(viii) Mobile patrols are deployed both during day and night to ensure safety and security. Quick Reactive Teams are kept on standby to meet any exigencies.

(ix) Sufficient communication systems has been provided among guard posts and security officials.

(x) All doors are locked properly at closing time and a thorough check is made by the security staff.

(xi) All sheds and buildings have minimum number of doors and entry is restricted and regulated. Widows and ventilators are covered with strong grills.

(xii) Movement of Arms and Ammunition is always under armed escorts.

Sale of weapons/ammunition is permitted to only authorized persons in accordance with Army Orders and no indiscriminate sale of weapons/ammunition is carried out. Further review of security arrangements and upgrading of security measures is carried out periodically.

No case of weapons or ammunitions from Ordnance/ammunition depots having reached anti-social elements or terrorists has been reported.